

Greensfield, Kilgobbin, Co. Dublin

January 11-1864

My dear Mr May

Two days ago I received a very acceptable letter from you. But need not talk of one, when your letters are always among the most welcome that reach me. I am anxious that you should have my name & that of my sister Mrs Palmer among the contributors to our Festival to be held on the 27th. I did mention in a previous letter sent by hand I intended to send £5 on her behalf, and £10 on my own, but was not quite ready with the cash at the time. I could send it now, but refrain from doing so, as you request me in your letter just come to hand not to do so until you have sent me your statement of money due me. What this is I cannot guess, for I think the great balance of indebtedness will turn out to be on my side. However it will be well to have our ~~set~~ great settlement now and then start of on a fresh score. I have just had a letter from John Mason of Newcastle on Tyne, an old subscriber to the Liberator, in which he says that though he paid for the year 1863, which he did to me last June, he has not got the paper for a long time. On referring to our ledger Alfred finds that since June no payment has been made by us to the Liberator, and he suggests Mason's name

Wherefore do as you please with all the paper I send you - I send some back & speculate by this mail

may have been wiped off in Boston as "delinquent
subscribers," though I think this could hardly have
been done without first communicating with him
and with me. Mason's previous payment to that
in June was I think for 1860, 61, & 62 for himself
and Miss Kendalough Howard. Our accounts
are now kept by Alfred (not by me) with the most
punctilious regularity by double entry so that
mistakes are not likely to happen on our part
so long as we keep separate accounts for the Lib.
& Standard of all money and spend for them - as well
as for the Am. A. S. Society. By the way, the
latest of these papers giving reports of the speeches
made at the Decade meeting are intensely interest-
ing of all the warmth, enthusiasm, & aroma of old
times, before the triumph was before us with its
terrible dangers. I especially enjoyed Mr. Ward
Beecher's speech & the spirit he aimed to inculcate.
I like what you said of Mrs. Chapman & the well de-
served compliments you paid her, though I do not
understand any more than you seem to do the
grounds of the resolution she seems to have come
to that it is time for the abolitionists to lay down
their arms & cease their efforts as a distinct
society. While I do not share the gloomy forebodings
of Stephen & A. K. Foster and especially Charles Pillsbury
it is clear to me that so long as a large majority of the

Northern voting population - made up of unscrupulous
Americans, Negro voting Irish, and the Scum of the
German / emigrants - is willing to go any lengths
in favor of the slaveholders & against their victims -
it is necessary the abolitionists should stand
shoulder to shoulder in order to overcome them (if
possible), of which it is wonderful that all true men
should not intuitively perceive - that America can
never come up to her high destiny, until Slavery is
entirely banished from her borders. I was likewise
a good deal impressed by Frederick Douglass testimony
to the character of the President - I am sure it will
greatly gratify Professor Cairnes who has proved a
very extensive and only of the highest integrity which is
admitted on all hands, but of his cautious, foresight
& statesmanlike ability. Cairnes's soundness of
judgment I esteem very highly, for I know of no
man among my personal acquaintances whom I
revere so highly as the possessor of critical acumen &
a judicial habit of mind. He has not much warmth
or enthusiasm of character, is not likely to be carried
away as I should probably be more likely to be by pre-
judice or personal preference - but is prone to judge
persons and things solely on their merits. I have been
a good deal of him lately. He has not been very well
He has often asked me to call on him. We take the
Daily News together & we talk over the leading articles.

It was a remark of his in reply a letter to C. F. Horne
of Boston which gave rise to that gentleman's recent
pamphlet on the international relations of England
the United States with especial reference to your
grounds of complaint against us about the Alabama
and our short coming in the faithful observance
of neutrality. By carrier request I sent my copy of
that pamphlet to H. Martineau who dislikes Henry,
says he is deeply gratified to see the conduct of the
Boston Unit which ill treated Garrison in 1845, and regards
him as having heretofore pursued a shuffling shabby course
which discredits him to respect. She also charges him
with some misrepresentations of facts, and which she
admits that for some time since your war began the
conduct of our movement was weak & vacillating, she
thinks (so so) that they are now making up for past
deficiencies & she maintains that therefore the time
for the distribution of the ~~the~~ brochure has gone by.
Still the pamphlet is a good one, no matter who the
author may be, and I think it well our public men
should be made fully aware how faithfully you ful-
filled your international obligations towards England
in past years. H. M. strongly objects further good
reason, to a statement which she says C. Winter has
made that the whole English Press is hostile to the
North. The fact is that all the English Press which is
truly respectable & intelligent in its management, is
with the North & hostile to the Slaveholders.

MS. B. 1.6 v. 15, p. 82

Nevertheless do as you please with all the papers I send you - I send some books & specimens by this mail

Many of the English newspapers, important by their
wealth, talent & circulation are on the wrong side,
but all the essential ones are on the right one.
You know that newspapers in general are merely
money making concerns like stores & merchants
offices. There is no truth in this. But many
of the best known papers and ^{many} all the ablest provin-
cial ones which enjoy a large circulation are pro-slavery
and always have been. Still I don't wonder at Miss
Watson's opinion being what it is, for the circle in
which she moved & the paper she saw was probably
~~hardly at all in favour~~ of the truth. Nearly all the society
in which she moved in England ~~was~~ belonged to the
~~same~~ circle which belonged to or bordered on the
extremity. I suppose with the exception of the latter
her daughters who were of the professional class, a
step below the gentry & a step ^{or 2} above that to which I belong,
she never left in the house of any of an inferior rank in
England. She was never in Scotland nor in Ireland. I
don't in the least wonder at her conclusion though I know
she is mistaken. The preponderating mass of the British
people is not the governing class but the class that controls
and finally shapes the course of those who govern & who
don't contradict them when their feelings are strongly
stirred - that vast class is and always has been in
favour of the South & of liberty & abhor slavery.
H. M. also says in his letter to me that C. Watson has

declared that Sumner's Anti-Slavery Speech terrified
our ministers into stopping the names, whereas the
same the dates which show that the order to that effect
was issued several days before the speech in question
reached England. She also mentions an American
official who was in England at that time who since
his return has expressed great satisfaction with the
conduct of our government & that he observes a marked
improvement in the feeling in America toward us
since his return. A war with England might un-
doubtedly injure us but it could not ruin us, & it
would afford only the mark of ~~enemies~~ friends those
who are and always have been your best friends.
The President's language in his last Message respecting
England was most admirable & evinced a degree of
fearlessness, magnanimity & unselfishness altogether
unlike the office hunting politician. I hope with all
my heart both for you and for the slave that
the slave of the world, you may elect him for a
second term. He has proved a real God send. Do
not refer to what I have said of C. W. as I never talk with
any body. She is now dead & I hardly ex-
pect to hear I am indebted for much kindness
& hospitality. I only introduced her name because
I had to do so in telling you about H. W.'s unusually
long letter to me. H. W. & M. W. C. are your true
friends & constant correspondents.

When I wrote to Richard I with fine time your
kind response. When he landed in N.Y. he did not
expect to stay more than 2 or 3 days - but as the vessel
had sailed for the Netherlands he had to wait about a week
he could not have expected to hear from you while he
remained on "your side of the Continent". If he had been
here rather he would certainly have waited for the Decade
meeting. However a great many better men than I am
were absent. I wish Phillips, Sumner, Pillsbury had
been there - and several friends - it would have made
the gathering so much more complete. I see that
Anna Brown was present. I very much wish you could
tell me something of her mother & of the family.

I wrote to Eliza Wigham today, enclosing your letter
as you requested, & I begged her to send it on to Miss
Batter. I have at different times given her duplicates
copies of W. Phillips. Show them on yourself. I have also
given duplicates of O. Johnson (which he sent me) to
Mrs. Nichol, who has a large collection. This lady, the
one famous Elizabeth Pease and she as good as can
think less energetic & more subdued, is very de-
sirous to get copies of famous families - as I am of
W. Phillips for Miss Wigham sister Mrs. Edman. If
you can manage this for me without begging from
any one for me, or charging yourself, I shall be much
obliged. Richard sent me a large number in a letter
- the cards only - not the card which is removed by holding
it over hot water - and then many can come for 1 postage.

8) I have written a much longer letter than I expected
or than I thought I could write. It is now near midnight
and the wind is howling in the trees outside - the
fire burning cheerily in the room, and two cats repose
peacefully on two cushions. My ~~two~~ daughter & our
maid servant the whole household beside myself are
gone to bed. Within the past week we have had several
days of hard frost which is now gone - but no snow.
It has turned again to thaw & rain. Our Christmas
week was rather dull, for my two daughters - one
after the other were confined to bed for several days
by severe colds of the nature of influenza - and
Alfred is now rather ailing in the same way. This
has been a terrible season in Dublin. However both
the girls got up in time to enable them to present at a
party they gave to about 30 of the children of our
neighbours - at which cakes & fruit were abundant,
they had dancing, and Alfred played the flute and
told stories & the whole was crowned with a Christmas
Tree grandly illuminated with wax candles & furnished
both with toys, dolls, books, beads, boxes & all sorts
of small cheap presents such as the poor things had
never seen the like of before. It was a great time for
all enjoyed it very much. I wish you all had been
with us.

H. W. Beecher's speech at New York on his return tells
the exact truth as to the state of things here as when if
he had lived all his life in the country. It is amazingly
clear sighted & clear.

I wish to be on my best behaviour. I find I
must take care of myself. So much more should you
as your life is more valuable & useful than mine
than mine could you in the same good you can do.

With cordial regards to you all I am

ever yours affectionately

Rich Webb

of the Atlantic so ables advocate
I am so able to the best of my belief,
and I was gratified to see how well he carried
the audience with him and I am con-
fident that though the people here have greatly
erred it has been through ignorance & mis-
apprehension of Southern men & of people in
the cotton & rector interest. Charges of
American threats, fear, of American ambition,
hostile to republican grounds, all such to
your institution as hostile to ours have had
quite as much to do with the influence
to them, that have been said as natural de-
pendency. Much in the interested standpoint
showing the general of negro phobias & doctored
proclamations of the truth is of a kind which could
naturally neither entice nor draw on your behalf
and left in our position truth our reason of
information it is no wonder that should be
lost. You need not fear intervention. I
doubt there is any one who has ever been so far
here & since the proclamation it could be
simply impossible. England who had so to say
to uphold American slaves. I have no
special respect for England or any other state
now but I think the people are sound
With my most cordial regards to you
and Mrs. F. I am most truly yours
Richd D Webb

I send you by this mail Mr Cairnes
lecture reported in the Dublin Express.
The attendance was near large & of
the greatest verifiability. The lecture
was ably, admirably delivered & was
a grand success. And Cairnes spoke
of the connection with diplomatic relations
and his heart was with the lecturer. As
at its close he went up to him and con-
gratulated him heart cordially as if he
had. The audience in his way also did
that like it, and I was expecting that
I could be there. I was after Cairnes called
in today, drove to the Duke of the Duke, the
duke and I am to take the city here
this evening. The bodies, papers & pamphlets
by my hands, as a means of credit to
him & I am anxious to be able to send them to
such good use. The lectures will be
shortly printed in a correct pamphlet
form and will then be the most complete &
clear summary of the Cairnes can be
English as that exists to my knowledge.
Cairnes is a cool, clear headed, logical,
unimpassioned, conscientious man, with his
heart in the cause, which has on the side

MS. B.1.6 v.15 p.92